

**C L A I M S**

1. An imaging unit mounted on a compact portable terminal equipment, characterized by comprising:

5 (a) a flexible printed circuit board having an opening portion at a predetermined position;

(b) an imaging element which is connected, by flip-chip mounting, to one side of said circuit board so as to cover at least part of the opening portion and expose an 10 imaging area;

(c) a reinforcing member which is made of a material having a linear expansion coefficient of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  (cm/cm/ $^{\circ}$ C) and is attached to the other side of said circuit board to reinforce said circuit board; and

15 (d) an optical member which is provided to guide object light from a surface on the reinforcing member side to the imaging area of said imaging element through the opening portion.

2. An imaging unit according to claim 1, characterized

20 in that said reinforcing member is made of a material having a light-shielding effect.

3. An imaging unit according to claim 1, characterized in that said reinforcing member is made of a metal material.

4. An imaging unit according to claim 1, characterized 25 in that said reinforcing member is made of a nonmetal material.

5. An imaging unit according to claim 3, characterized in that the metal material is a material selected from the group consisting of 42 alloy, 50Fe50Ni, and 64Fe36Ni.

30 6. An imaging unit according to claim 4, characterized

in that the nonmetal material is glass or ceramics.

7. An imaging unit according to claim 1, characterized in that when said reinforcing member is to be attached to said flexible printed circuit board, a thermosetting 5 adhesive is used.

8. An imaging unit according to claim 1, characterized in that said flexible printed circuit board includes no adhesive layer between a base matrix and a copper layer.

9. An imaging unit according to claim 8, characterized 10 in that notched portions are formed in the opening portion of said flexible printed circuit board.

10. A portable terminal equipment characterized by mounting an imaging unit defined in claim 1.